

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for operating a packaging transport system, comprising the steps of:

sterilizing objects packed in at least one layer of packaging which is bacteria-impermeable and gas-permeable;

placing the sterilized objects packed in at least one layer of the at least one layer of packaging into an evacuable sterilization chamber in the form of a transfer lock;

pre-evacuating the sterilization chamber, wherein the speed of the pre-evacuation is adapted to the flow resistance of the gas-permeable packaging to ensure a gas pressure within the packaging remains above a pressure in the sterilization chamber during the pre-evacuation;

applying abruptly a vapor mix consisting of water steam and hydrogen peroxide steam as a condensate layer onto the outer side of the packaging;

re-evacuating the sterilization chamber to remove the condensate layer and the uncondensed vapor mix before either the vapor mix or the condensate layer penetrates through the packaging to the objects at an inadmissible level;
and

transferring the sterilized objects and packaging into a sterile clean room.

2. ~~(withdrawn) A process for a contamination-free insertion of already sterilized syringes into a filling apparatus surrounded by a sterile clean room for filling and sealing the syringes, comprising the steps of:~~ according to claim 1,

wherein the packaging sterilized on the outer side is a providing sterile transport container ~~containers~~ containing the already sterilized syringes with a bacteria-impermeable and gas-permeable cover and a bacteria-impermeable and gas permeable additional packaging;

wherein releasing the transport container ~~containers~~ is released from their the sealed bacteria-impermeable and gas permeable additional packaging before placing the transport container in the sterilization chamber;

wherein the speed of the pre-evacuation is adapted to the flow resistance of the gas-permeable cover of the transport container; and

~~sterilizing the outer side of the covered transport chambers in an evacuable sterilization chamber which serves as a lock by~~

~~pre-evacuating the sterilization chamber;~~

~~applying abruptly a vapor mix consisting of water steam and hydrogen peroxide steam as a condensate layer onto the outer side of the covered transport chambers;~~

~~re-evacuating the sterilization chamber to remove the condensate layer and the uncondensed vapor mix before either the vapor mix or the condensate layer penetrates through the packaging to the objects at an inadmissible level; and~~

wherein guiding the sterilized transport chambers container is guided into the clean room for syringe filling in the filling operation apparatus.

3. (original) A process according to claim 1, wherein a pressure difference between a pressure of the vapor mix and a pressure in the evacuated sterilization chamber forces the vapor mix to be fed into the sterilization chamber without the use of carrier gas.

4. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 2, wherein a pressure difference between a pressure of the vapor mix and a pressure in the evacuated sterilization chamber forces the vapor mix to be fed into the sterilization chamber without the use of carrier gas.

5-6. (canceled)

7. (original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the condensate layer is removed from the sterilization chamber immediately after the vapor mix has been fed into the sterilization chamber.

8-9. (canceled)

10. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 2, wherein the condensate layer is removed from the sterilization chamber immediately after the vapor mix has been fed into the sterilization chamber.

11-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the condensate layer is applied before an inner pressure of the packaging ~~or the transport container~~ has reached a pressure of the sterilization chamber.

16. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 2, wherein the condensate layer is applied before an inner pressure of the packaging ~~or the transport container~~ has reached a pressure of the sterilization chamber.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the ~~inadmissible level is a level of hydrogen peroxide residue which exceeds~~ does not exceed 0.5 ppm.

19-22. (canceled)

23. (original) A process according to claim 1, wherein a time span of 14 seconds is provided from the beginning of the flowing in of the vapour mix to the beginning of the re-evacuation.

24. (currently amended) A process according to claim 23 ~~claims 22~~, wherein the time span amounts to a maximum of 4 seconds.

25. (original) A process according to claim 23, wherein the time span amounts to a maximum of 2 seconds.

26-28. (canceled)

29. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 2, wherein removal of the additional packaging is not performed if the porosity of the transport container is above a predetermined value.

30. (original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the pre-evacuation, vapor mix application and re-evacuation steps are repeated at least once.

31. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 2, wherein the pre-evacuation, vapor mix application and re-evacuation steps are repeated at least once.

32. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 29, wherein supporting surfaces of the transport container adapted for use with a holding device or a transport device, and the support surfaces are altered before the pre-evacuation, vapor mix application and re-evacuation steps are repeated.

33. (canceled)

34. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 29, wherein during a repeat of the pre-evacuation, vapor mix application and re-evacuation steps, the removal of the condensate layer takes place by evacuation of the sterilization chamber to a pressure level below at least one of a steam pressure of water, a steam pressure of water and hydrogen peroxide solution, and a steam pressure of pure hydrogen peroxide, corresponding to a temperature in the sterilization chamber during sterilization.

35-39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein a packaging transport container leakage is detected by analysis of sterilization chamber pressure.

41. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 40 [[39]], wherein packaging transport container leakage is detected during at least one of the pre-evacuation step and the re-evacuation step.

42. (canceled)

43. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 2, wherein transport container leakage is detected by analysis of sterilization chamber pressure.

44. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 43 [[42]], wherein a package transport container leakage is detected during at least one of the pre-evacuation step and the re-evacuation step.

45. (canceled)

46. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein a package transport container leakage occurring before the package is transport container are guided into the sterilization chamber is detected by monitoring the curvature of the package cover.

47. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 46 [[45]], wherein a package transport container leakage occurring during the pre-evacuation step is detected by monitoring the curvature of the cover package during at least one of the pre-evacuation step and the re-evacuation step.

48. (canceled)

49. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 2, wherein a package transport container leakage occurring before the package is transport container are guided into the sterilization chamber is detected by monitoring the curvature of the package cover.

50. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 49 ~~[[48]]~~, wherein a package transport container leakage occurring during the pre-evacuation step is detected by monitoring the curvature of the ~~cover~~ package during at least one of the pre-evacuation step and the re-evacuation step.

51. (canceled)